

23. A material as in any one of claims 5 or 22 wherein embossing is effected simultaneously with coupling the film to the support material.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above application is respectfully requested.

In this Amendment the Applicant has canceled pending claims 1-4 and added claims 5-23. The trademark terminology has been removed from the claims. It is submitted that the claims as now pending comply with the requirements under 35 USC 112.

In claim 5 there is defined a composite material where there is the embossed covering surface layer consisting of a polyethylene film.

In claim 8 the use of the composite material is defined, and there is also included a processing step, namely the step of forming the material into the shape to produce at least one of the products. In claim 10 there is defined the characteristic of the supporting material where there is the supporting material and a polyethylene film, but there is no film between the supporting material the surface layer.

Claim 13 covers the use of the composite material with the polyethylene film and where there is no film between the supporting material and the film, and there is likewise added a process step.

In claim 15 there is defined the characteristic of the supporting material and an embossed surface layer where the supporting material is directly coupled to the film.

Claim 18 defines the process step.

Claim 22 defines the composite material in the nature of that consisting of the supporting material and the polyethylene film. In this claim, it is pointed out that the terminology "consisting" is used rather than "comprising".

A review of the prior art indicates that this invention does indeed define an important patentable advance over the art. The claims define in different formats the invention for which protection is sought. The invention is directed, in one sense, to providing a high surface resistance which is non-toxic and is thus usable for contacting a person's skin for a relatively long time. For this purpose, there is provided a characteristic in some of the claims of the feature of a material of the surface which is embossed. This provides a higher surface resistance, namely to scraping and abraising the process for effect.

As set out in dependent claim 23, the embossing and coupling of the film to the support material is effected simultaneously.

In the reference GB-A-1,514,224 there is a multilayer composite which simulates leather, and is used in areas where real leather is generally used, such as upholstery, apparel, handbags, footwear and luggage. Such multilayer composites are constituted by essentially three elements:

- a) textile fabrics (cotton twill, broadcloth, acetate or polyester crepe, rayon challis, polyester knit, double knit and nylon taffeta and tricots) which act as supporting substrates;
- b) crushed foam (a compressed foam to reduce its thickness and leave cells separated by thin interconnected walls);
- c) a surface finish film (formed by a coating of melamin resin, urea foraldehyde condensate, nitrocellulose, polyurethane, polyvinylchloride, acrylic, cellulose acetate butyrate, nitrocellulose modified polyurethane or a mixture thereof; also polyethylene can be used.

From the foregoing it is clear that the subject matter of Valente's application differs from the British reference. As defined in some of the claims, Valente discloses coupling of polyethylene film directly to the substrate. In other claims, it is defined as coupling the film and substrate without the use of film.

In some forms of the invention as defined therefore, the claims of the present application indicate that there are only two layers. For instance, claim 22 defines the composite as consisting of only two layers.

As to the term "regenerated leather", it is pointed out to the Examiner that this is commonly used in the leather working industry. It means leather material which is obtained by crushing, mixing together and recycling old leather.

The invention is directed to providing a product to provide a leather-type effect which goes beyond the normal working technique of leather. In other words, the invention is directed to some embodiments to providing leather with a plastic layer. This is not a normal technique

because it would not be a natural consideration to cover leather with polyethylene. Tests, however, conducted indicate that old leather pieces which are so treated can be effectively renewed by providing the polyethylene layer to an old or worn surface. The same applies to other materials which are listed in the claims.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is now in good order for allowance, and such early action is respectfully solicited. Should matters remain which the Examiner believes could be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to telephone the Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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